

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) A floor covering comprising:

a chemically embossed portion; and

a mechanically embossed portion that is cured prior to mechanically embossing,

wherein said chemically embossed portion has at least one chemical emboss depth that is greater than the mechanical emboss depth of any portion of said mechanically embossed portion.

22. (Previously Presented) The floor covering according to claim 21, wherein said chemically embossed portion is substantially free of mechanical embossments.

23. (Previously Presented) The floor covering according to claim 21, wherein said chemically embossed portion is part of a foam layer and said mechanically embossed portion is part of a wear layer.

24. (Previously Presented) The floor covering according to claim 23, further comprising a design layer over a portion of said foam layer.

25. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 23, wherein said wear layer comprises polyvinyl chloride.

26. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 21, wherein said chemically embossed portion is embossed using a retarder composition comprising

acrylic resin binder, alcohol, water and an inhibitor selected from the group consisting of tolyltriazole, benzotriazole, fumaric acid, malic acid, hydroquinone, dodecanethiol, succinic anhydride, and adipic acid.

27. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 26, wherein said inhibitor is tolyltriazole.
28. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 21, further comprising a top coat.
29. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 28, wherein said top coat comprises acrylated urethane.
30. (Previously Presented) The floor covering according to claim 23, further comprising a backing layer on said foam and a strengthening layer located between said backing layer and said foam layer.
31. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 24, wherein a portion of said design layer comprises a non-retarder ink composition.
32. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 24, wherein said mechanically embossed portion has a surface texture intended to provide a natural appearance and said design layer has a design intended to have a natural appearance.
33. (Previously Presented) A floor covering comprising:
- a chemically embossed portion; and
- a mechanically embossed portion,
- wherein said chemically embossed portion has at least one chemical emboss depth that is greater than the mechanical emboss depth of any portion of said mechanically embossed portion, and

wherein said chemically embossed portion is embossed prior to said mechanically embossed portion.

34. (Previously Presented) The floor covering according to claim 33, wherein said chemically embossed portion is part of a foam layer and said mechanically embossed portion is part of a wear layer.

35. (Previously Presented) The floor covering according to claim 34, wherein said wear layer has a uniform melt viscosity and is cured during chemical embossing.

36. (Previously Presented) The floor covering according to claim 35, wherein said wear layer contains no reactive compounds that would lead to chemical embossing.

Claim 37 (Canceled)

Claim 38 (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) A floor covering comprising:
a chemically embossed portion; and
a mechanically embossed portion that is cured prior to mechanically embossing to produce a sharp embossment,
wherein said chemically embossed portion has at least one chemical emboss depth that is greater than the mechanical emboss depth of any portion of said mechanically embossed portion.

40. (Previously Presented) The floor covering according to claim 23, wherein the mechanically embossed portion includes all of the surface of the wear layer, except the chemically embossed portion.